

GLOSSARY

Aerosol

A suspension of liquid or solid particles in a gas.

Asbestos

A naturally occurring mineral that when mined and processed, takes the form of small fibers which are usually invisible to the naked eye. The fibers are heat-resistant and extremely durable.

Catalytic Converter

An air pollution abatement device that removes pollutants from motor vehicle exhaust, either by oxidizing them into carbon dioxide and water or reducing them to nitrogen and oxygen.

Characteristic

Any one of the four categories used in defining hazardous waste: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity.

Chlorinated Solvent

An organic solvent containing chlorine atoms, e.g., methylene chloride and 1,1,1-trichloromethane, used in aerosol spray containers and in highway paint.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

A family of inert, nontoxic, and easily liquified chemicals used in refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, or as solvents and aerosol propellants. Because CFCs are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere they drift into the upper atmosphere where their chlorine components destroy ozone.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG)

Persons or enterprises which produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month and that meet the CESQG storage and disposal limitations. CESQGs are exempt from most hazardous waste regulations, but are required to determine whether their waste is hazardous, and keep records of the quantity generated and stored on site.

EPA Identification Number

The unique code assigned to each generator, transporter, and treatment, storage, or disposal facility by regulating agencies to facilitate identification and tracking of chemicals or hazardous waste.

Friable Asbestos

Any material containing more than one percent asbestos, and that can be crumbled or reduced to powder by hand pressure. (May include previously non-friable material which becomes broken or damaged by mechanical force.)

Gasoline Volatility

The property of gasoline whereby it evaporates into a vapor. Gasoline vapor is a volatile organic compound.

Hazard Communication Standard

An OSHA regulation that requires chemical manufacturers, suppliers, and importers to assess the hazards of the chemicals that they make, supply, or import, and to inform employers, customers, and workers of these hazards through MSDS sheets.

Hazard Evaluation

A component of risk evaluation that involves gathering and evaluating data on the types of health injury or disease that may be produced by a chemical and on the conditions of exposure under which such health effects are produced.

Hazard Identification

Determining if a chemical can cause adverse health effects in humans and what those affects might be.

Hazardous Air Pollutants

Air pollutants which are not covered by ambient air quality standards but which, as defined in the Clean Air Act, may reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to irreversible illness or death. Such pollutants include asbestos, beryllium, mercury, benzene, coke oven emissions, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride.

Hazardous Chemical

An EPA designation for any hazardous material requiring an MSDS under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. Such substances are capable of producing fires and explosions or adverse health effects like cancer and dermatitis. Hazardous chemicals are distinct from hazardous waste. (See: Hazardous Waste.)

Hazardous Waste

By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), or appears on special EPA lists.

Incompatible Waste

A waste unsuitable for mixing with another waste or material because it may react to form a hazard.

Manifest (Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest Form 8700-22)

This manifest is used to identify the quantity, composition, origin, routing and destination of a hazardous waste.

Manifest System

Tracking of hazardous waste from “cradle to grave” (generation through disposal) with accompanying documents known as manifests.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

A compilation of information required under the OSHA Communication Standard on the identity of hazardous chemicals, health, and physical hazards, exposure limits, and precautions. Section 311 of SARA requires facilities to submit MSDSs under certain circumstances.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

A provision of the Clean Water Act which prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by EPA, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government on an Indian reservation.

Ozone Depletion

Destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer which shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation harmful to life. This destruction of ozone is caused by the breakdown of certain chlorine and/or-bromine containing compounds (chlorofluorocarbons or halons) which break down when they reach the stratosphere and then catalytically destroy ozone molecules.

Permit

An authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency to implement the requirements of an environmental regulation; e.g., a permit to operate a wastewater treatment plant or to operate a facility that may generate harmful emissions.

Propellant

Liquid in a self-pressurized pesticide product that expels the active ingredient from its container.

Publicly Owned Treatment Works

A waste-treatment works owned by a state or unit of local government usually designed to treat domestic wastewater.

Release

Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment of a hazardous or toxic chemical or extremely hazardous substance.

Sanitary Sewers

Underground pipes that carries off only domestic or industrial waste not storm water.

Septic System

An onsite system designed to treat and dispose of domestic sewage. A typical septic system consists of a tank that receives waste from a residence or business and a system of tile lines or a pit for disposal of the liquid effluent (sludge) that remains after decomposition of the solids by bacteria in the tank and must be pumped out periodically.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG)

Persons or enterprises that produce between 220 and 2,200 pounds per month of hazardous waste and that meet the SQG storage and disposal limitations.

Sump

A pit or tank that catches liquid runoff for drainage or disposal.

Suspect Material

Building material suspected of containing asbestos, e.g., surfacing material, floor tile, ceiling tile, thermal system insulation, and miscellaneous other materials.

Tampering

Adjusting, negating, or removing pollution control equipment on a motor vehicle.

Treatment, Storage, Disposal and Reclaiming (TSRD) facility

A facility that treats, stores, disposes and/or recycles hazardous wastes.

Used Oil

Oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil, that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities.

Examples include engine oil, sludge from used oil tanks, transmission fluid, refrigeration oil, compressor oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.

Wastewater

The spent or used water from a home, community, farm, or industry that contains dissolved or suspended matter.

Wellhead Protection Area

A protected surface and subsurface zone surrounding a well or wellfield supplying a public water system to keep contaminants from reaching the well water.